

SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMS (SAPs)



Unless otherwise noted, the regulations described below apply to fishing vessels issued valid Federal fishing permits or any vessel fishing in Federal waters. (See 50 CFR § 648.4 for Federal fishing permit requirements.) This information sheet is only a summary of applicable fishing regulations and is not a substitute for the actual regulations which can be found at 50 CFR Part 648.

A SAP is a narrowly defined NE multispecies fishery that is prosecuted in such a way as to avoid or minimize impacts and bycatch on groundfish stocks of concern, as well as impacts on Essential Fish Habitat.

Closed Area II (CA II) Yellowtail Flounder SAP:

This SAP is intended to allow harvesting of Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder by vessels issued a valid limited access days-at-sea (DAS) permit. The total number of trips into the SAP in a fishing year will be limited to 320 per year. Vessels may fish in the CA II Yellowtail Flounder SAP, from June 1 through December 31, of each year using A or B DAS, under the following conditions and restrictions:

1. Vessels may make up to two trips per month into the CA II Yellowtail Flounder Access Area defined below to target yellowtail flounder;
2. This SAP lies within the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, therefore, vessels fishing in this SAP are subject to the Vessel Monitoring System, reporting, observer deployment, and gear requirements of the U.S./Canada Understanding (see Information Sheet #17 for details). DAS will be counted once the vessel crosses the boundary into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area and will end when the vessel crosses the Eastern U.S. Canada Area boundary when leaving this area;
3. Vessels are limited to 30,000 lb of yellowtail flounder per trip; the cod trip limit is 100 lb per DAS, not to exceed 5 percent of the total catch on board.

The Regional Administrator has broad authority to modify possession restrictions and trip limits under this SAP, and may close access to this area, should conditions warrant a need to.

Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder Access Area

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Lat.</u>	<u>W. Long.</u>
Ytail 1	41° 30'	67° 20'
Ytail 2	41° 30'	66° 34.8'
G5	41° 18.6'	66° 24.8' (the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary)
CII 2	41° 00'	66° 35.8'
CII 1	41° 00'	67° 20'
Ytail 1	41° 30'	67° 20'

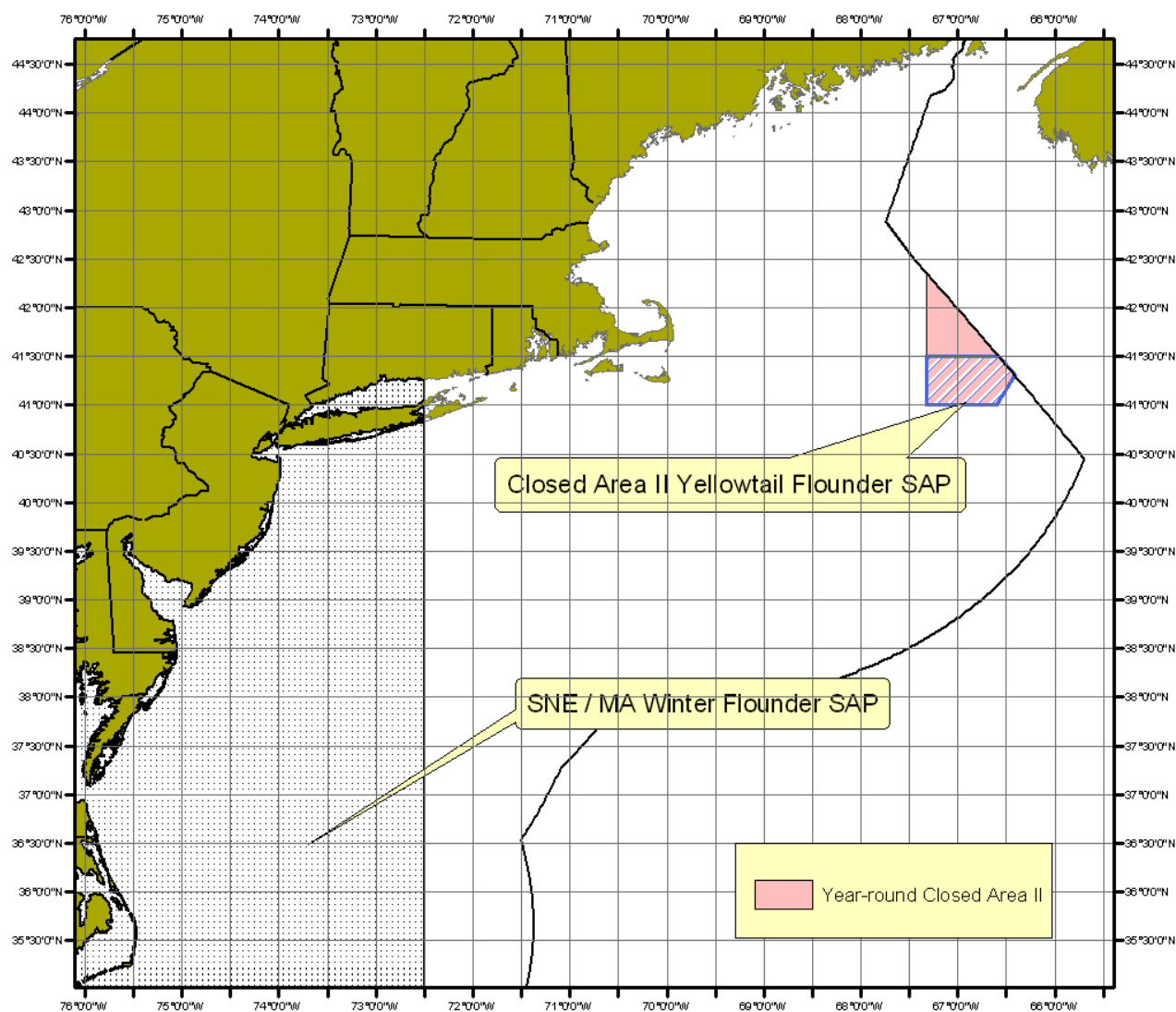
Southern New England/Mid Atlantic (SNE/MA) Winter Flounder SAP:

Under this SAP, a vessel fishing for summer flounder west of 72°30' W. long.; using mesh required by the Fishery Management Plan for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; and not fishing on a groundfish DAS, may possess and land up to 200 lb of winter flounder, subject to the following restrictions:

1. The vessel must possess a valid Federal summer flounder permit;
2. The weight of winter flounder may not exceed the weight of summer flounder on board;
3. While in the program, the vessel may not fish on a groundfish DAS;
4. All fishing would have to take place west of 72° 30' W. long.; and
5. Possession and/or landing of other regulated groundfish species is prohibited.

This SAP is intended to reduce discards of SNE winter flounder in the summer flounder fishery.

(click image for larger view)
Special Access Program



This is a simplified summary of the measures in effect under the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. You should also get a copy of the official rules as published in the [Federal Register](#).